

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 84

18p

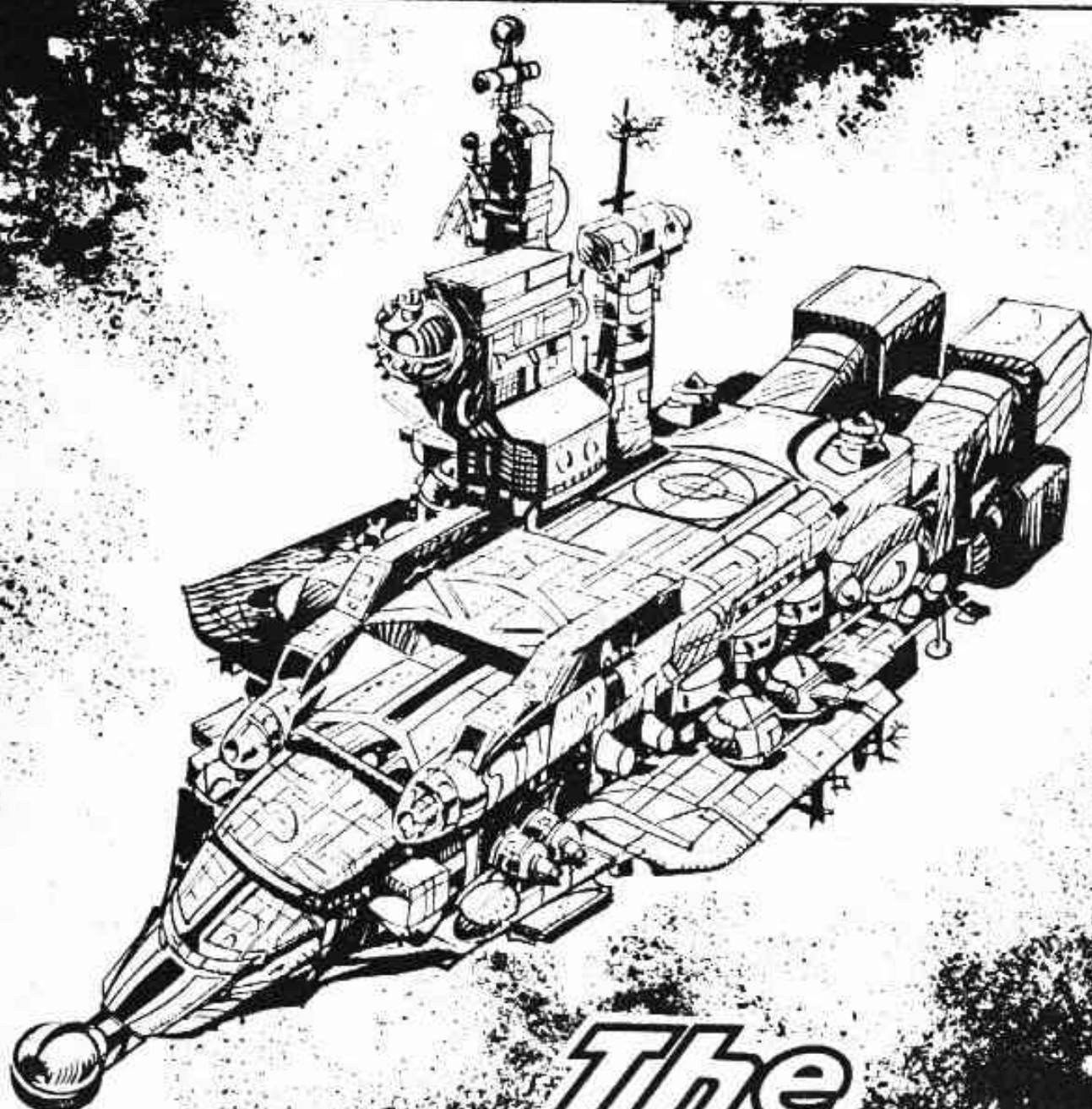


The
LOST
DESTROYER

STARBLAZER



FAR OUT IN THE DARK, COLD DEPTHS OF INTER-STELLAR SPACE, TERRAN FEDERATION'S LONELY PATROL VESSELS SCoured THE VACUUM FOR SIGNS OF MILITARY ADVANCEMENT. HOME WAS FAR AWAY FOR THE SPACE DESTROYER, MAGNUM, AND THE DANGERS MANY AND VARIED — IT COULD NOT KNOW OF THE EVENTS ABOUT TO BEFALL IT — EVENTS WHICH WERE TO MAKE IT VITAL TO EARTH'S VERY SURVIVAL . . .



The LOST DESTROYER

TERRAN SPACECRAFT, MAGNUM, KEPT A WARY WATCH FOR ENEMY SHIPS.

SUDDENLY, FROM NOWHERE —

HOSTILES BEARING BLUE 67783.

MAGNUM'S FORCE HULL ABSORBED THE CHARGE —

INCREASING CHARGE
... FIRE AGAIN.





INSIDE THE MAGNUM —

WHAT'S THE
DAMAGE, KANE?

PART OF THE ENGINE
STABILISER WRECKED.

MECHANICS ASSESSED THE DAMAGE.

THE STABILISER CANNOT BE REPAIRED. THAT MEANS
FASTER THAN LIGHT TRAVEL IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

WE'RE IN FOR A LONG,
SLOW JOURNEY BACK TO EARTH.

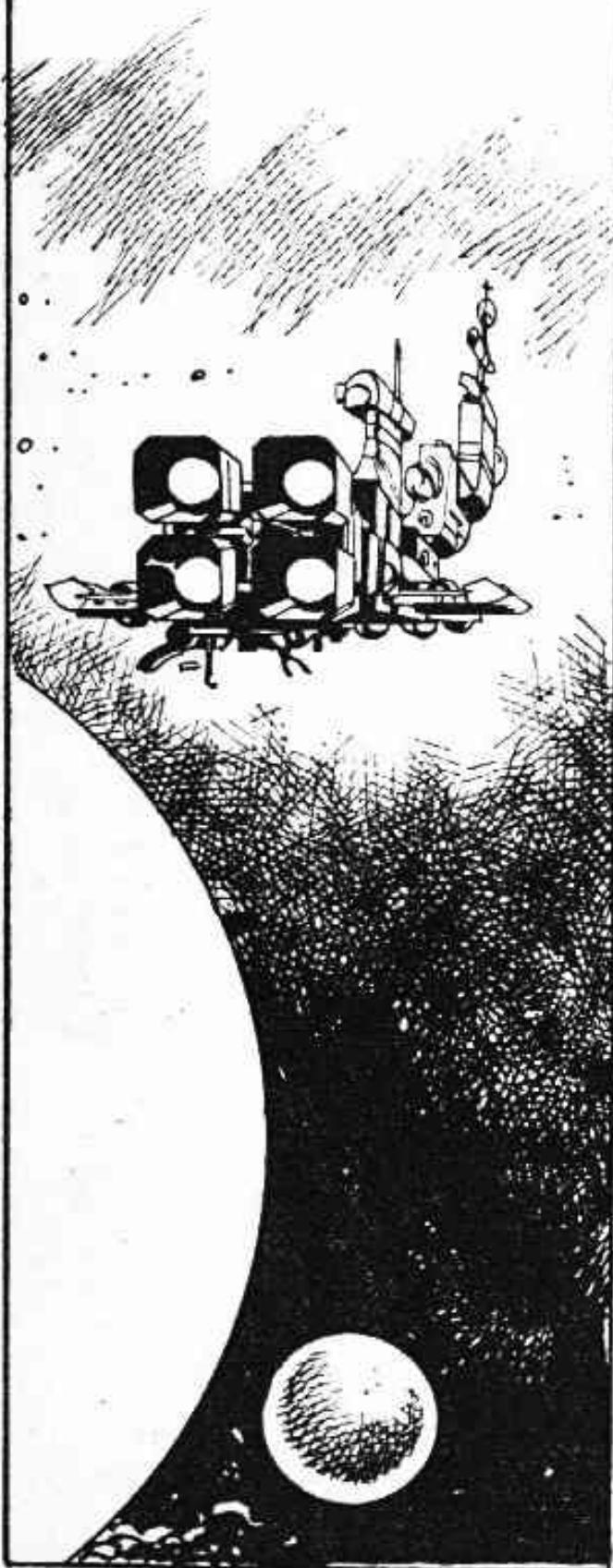
THE CREW OF THE MAGNUM PREPARED
TO SLEEP MOST OF THE WAY BACK.

BY THE TIME WE WAKE UP WE
SHOULD BE AT STATION PLUTO...
ONLY PARSECS FROM EARTH.

SET CO-ORDINATES FOR EARTH,
ACTIVATE CONTROL AND THEN GET
DOWN TO THE CRYOGENIC PODS.

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WITH ITS CREW SLEEPING, THE
DAMAGED MAGNUM LIMPED
SLOWLY THROUGH ENDLESS SPACE,
UNTIL FIVE YEARS LATER —



ANY EMERGENCY AUTOMATICALLY
REVIVED THE CREW —



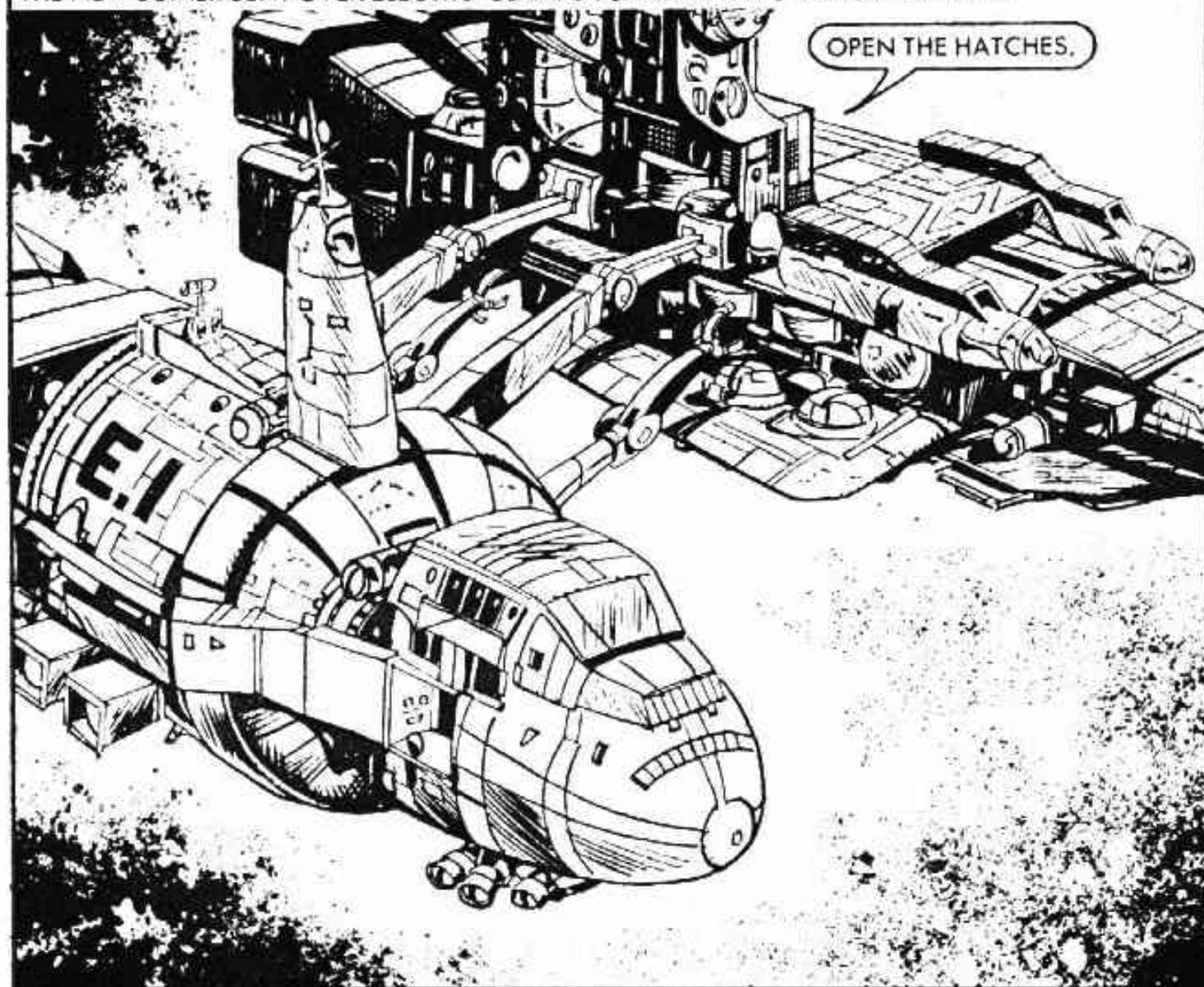
**EMERGENCY — UNIDENTIFIED
SHIP IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.**

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

A VISITOR! SEND THE
GALACTIC "FRIEND" SIGNAL.



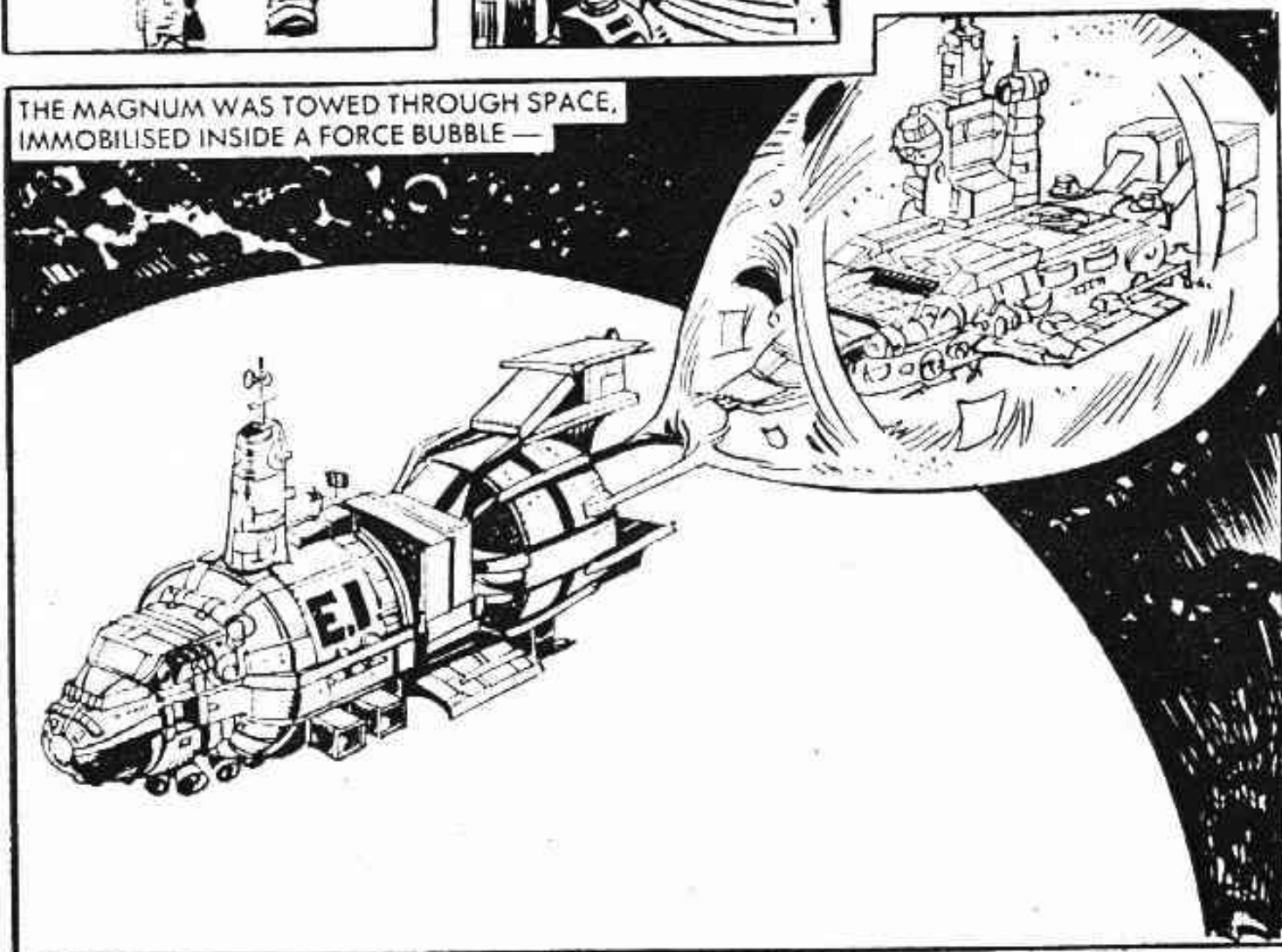
THE NEWCOMER SENT OVER ELECTRO-CLAMPS TO FIX THE TWO SHIPS TOGETHER.

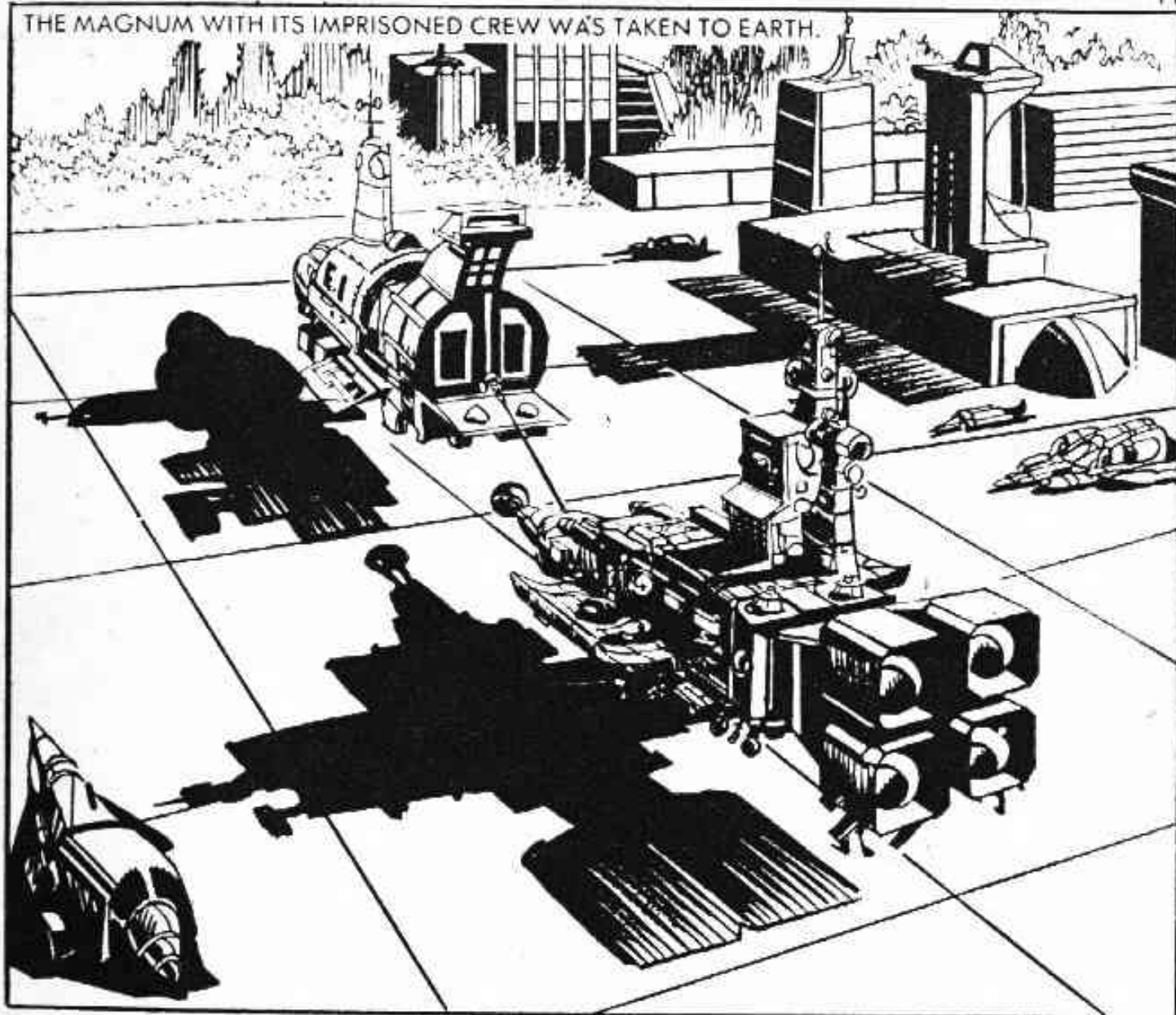






THE MAGNUM WAS TOWED THROUGH SPACE,
IMMOBILISED INSIDE A FORCE BUBBLE —

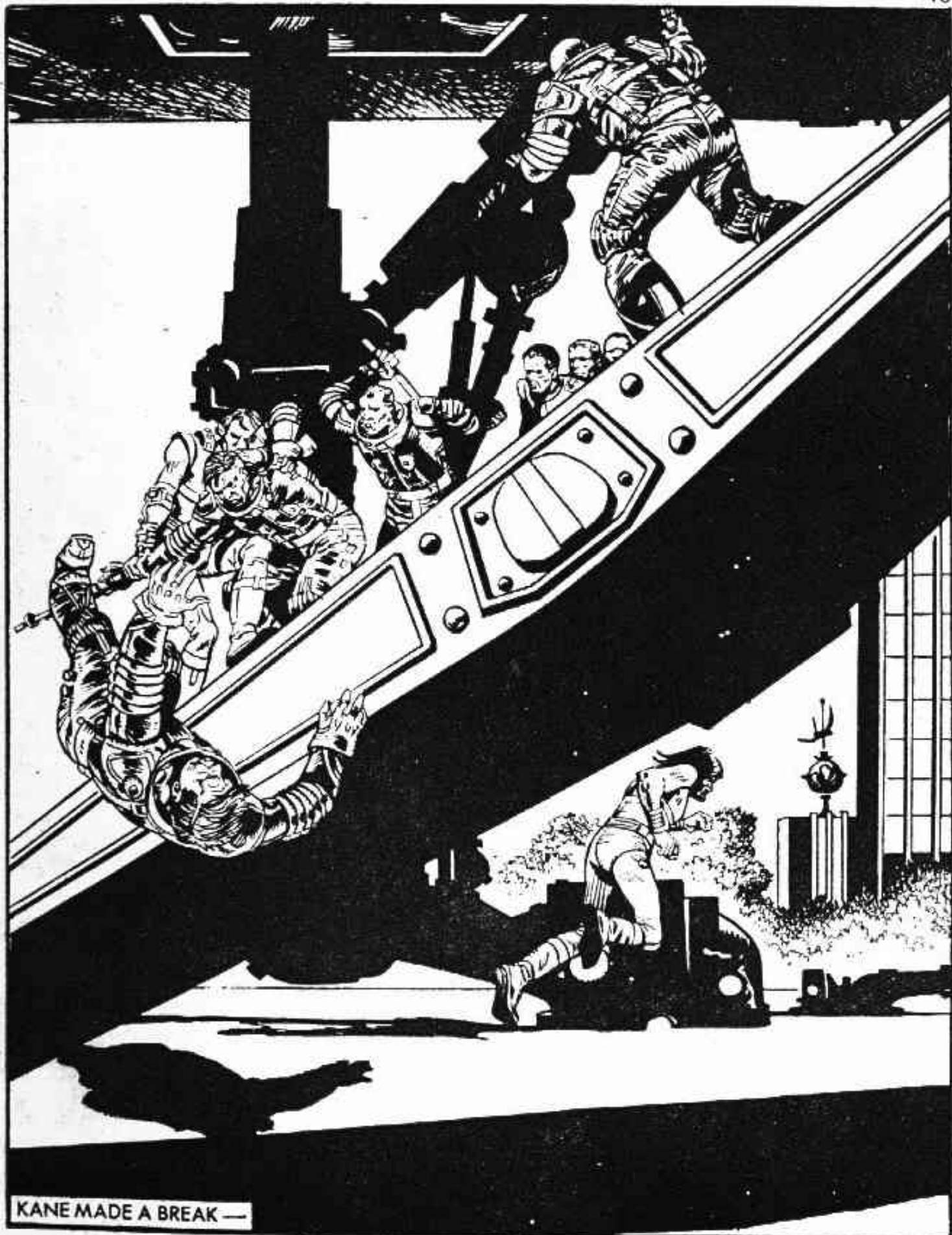






ON THE DISEMBARKATION RAMP —

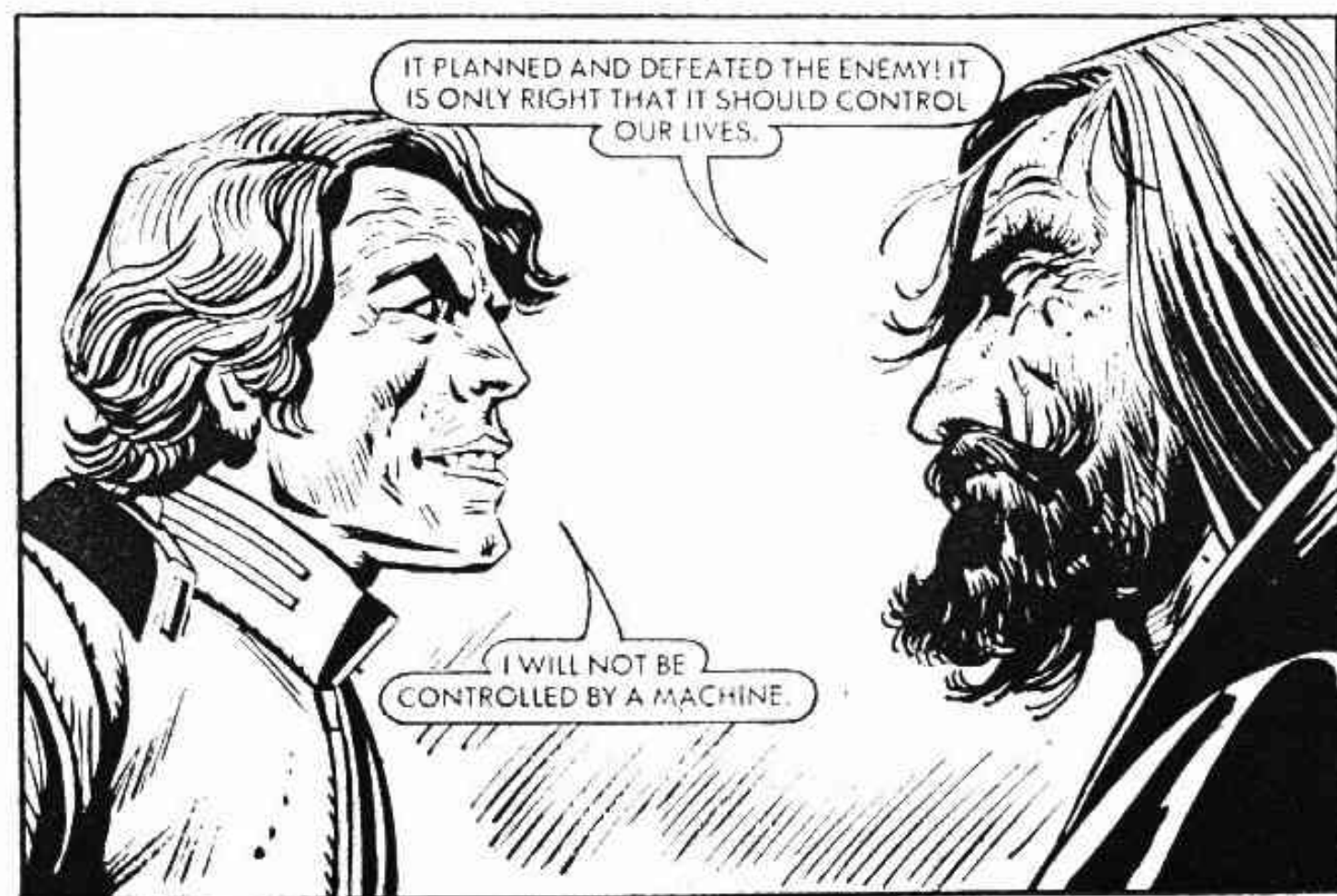




KANE MADE A BREAK —







POWER AND HIS MEN WERE LED AWAY.



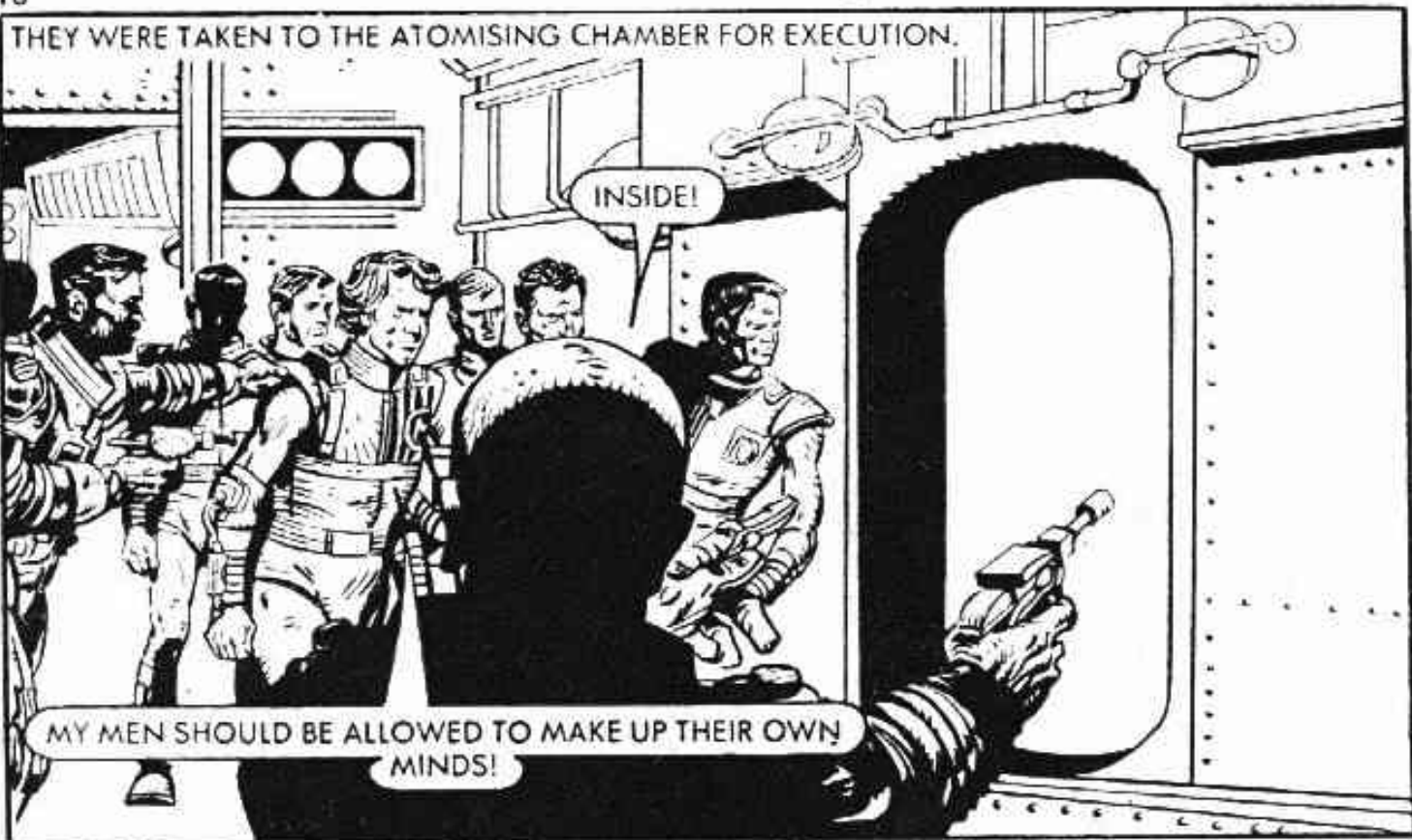
THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE ATOMISING CHAMBER FOR EXECUTION.

INSIDE!

MY MEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS!

KANE APPEARED SUDDENLY —

HIT THEM!







AN ANTI-GRAV ELEVATOR TOOK THEM TOWARDS THE ROOF.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO EARTH?



THE COMPUTER, CONTROL 1, PLANNED THE BATTLE STRATEGY THAT DEFEATED THE ENEMY. IN THE PROCESS, THE COMPUTER WAS PROGRAMMED WITH CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND A PLAN TO DESTROY EARTH IN EVENT OF DEFEAT. I THINK SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, THE COMPUTER REALISED THAT IT HAD TOTAL POWER. IT RECRUITED SUITABLE SUBJECTS TO SERVE IT, AND THROUGH THEM RULES BY FEAR.

ON THE ROOF—



THEY STILL HAVE SOLOTHRUSTERS
HERE FOR EMERGENCIES.

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THEY JETTED ACROSS TO THEIR CRAFT—



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO
TRY AND KNOCK OUT THE GUARDS.

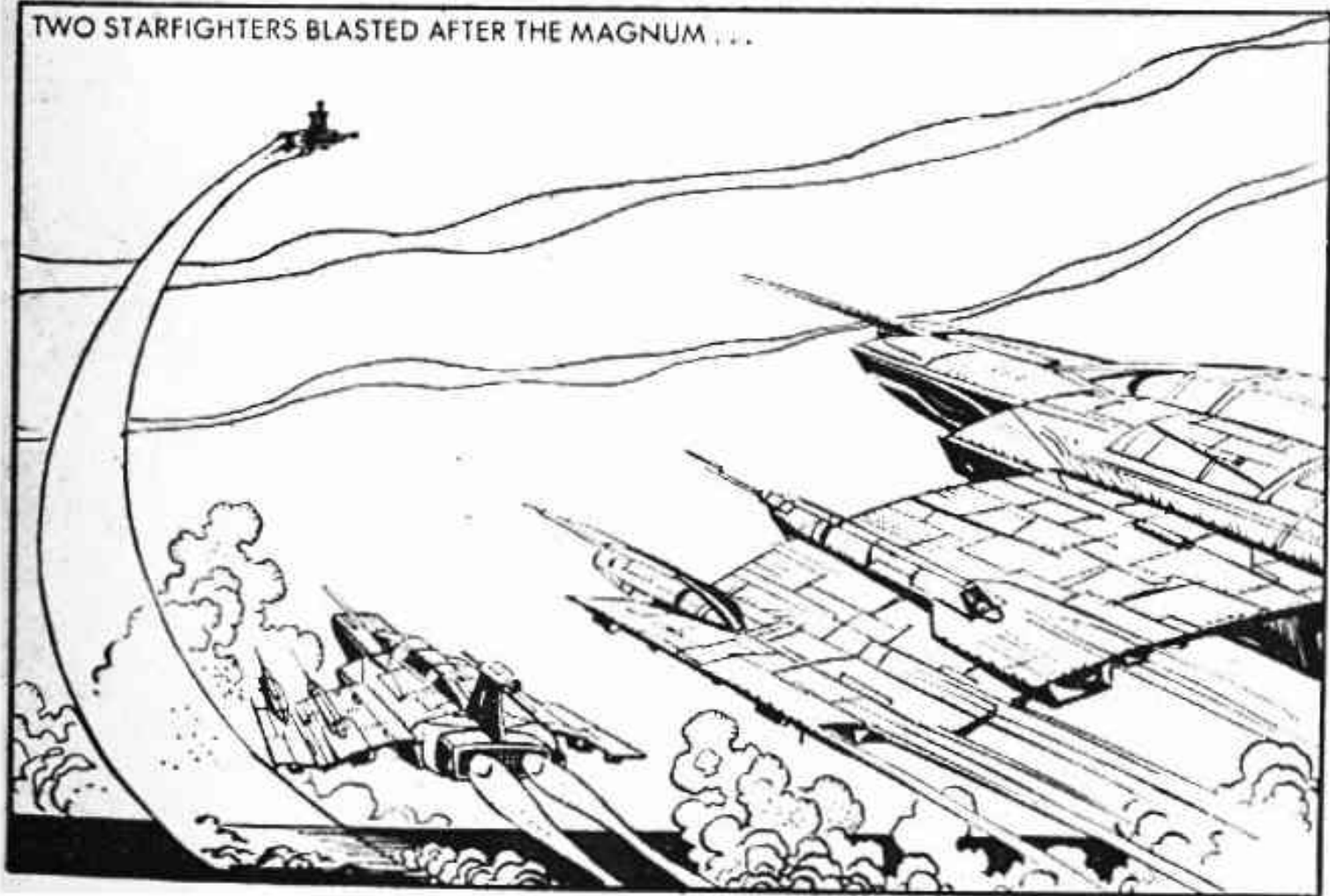


THE MAGNUM TOOK OFF—

TAKE A COUPLE OF SHIPS UP AND
BLAST THEM OUT OF THE SKY!

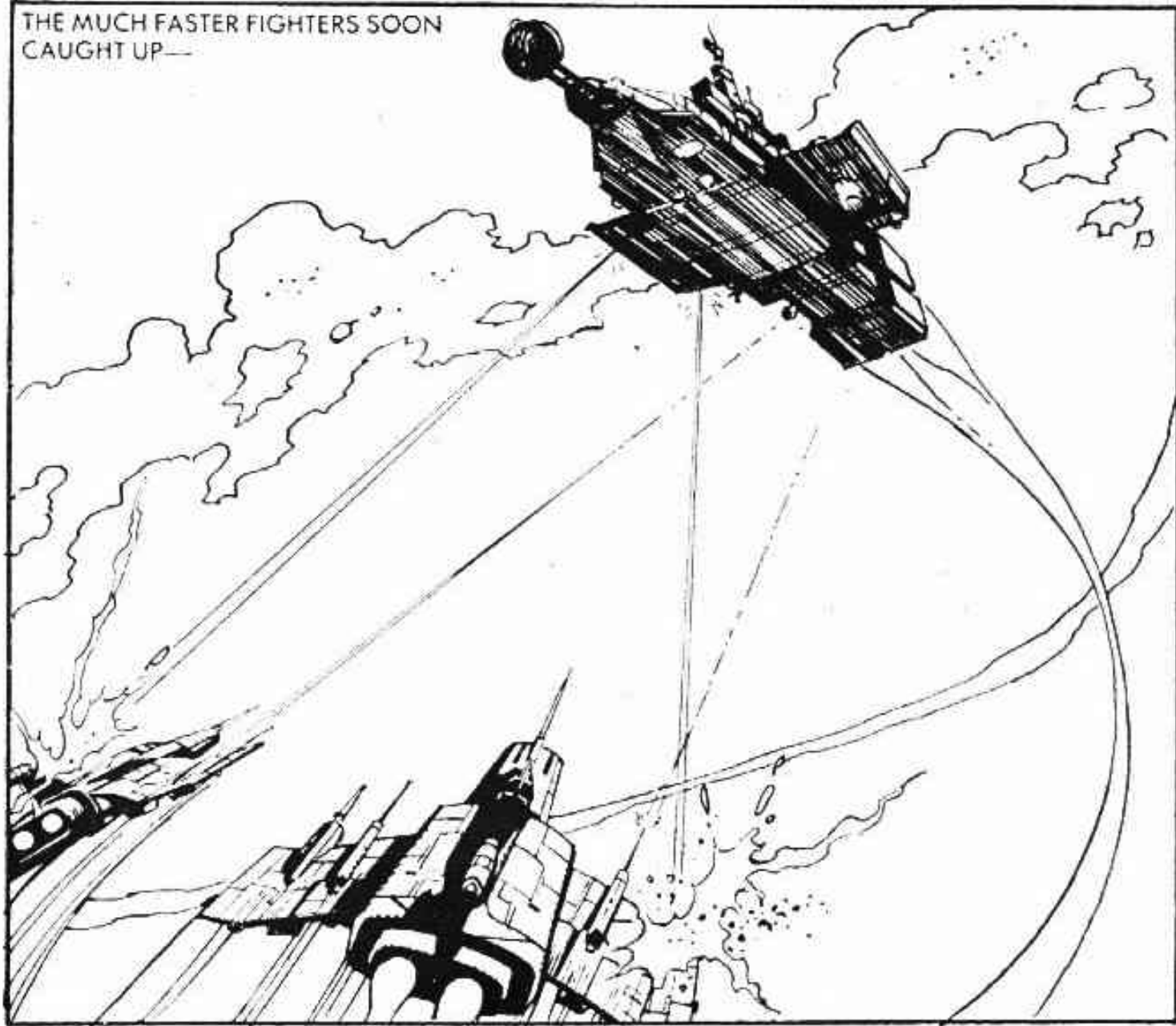


TWO STARFIGHTERS BLASTED AFTER THE MAGNUM ...





THE MUCH FASTER FIGHTERS SOON
CAUGHT UP—





THEY'RE FELLOW EARTHMEN... BUT THEY HAD TO DIE.

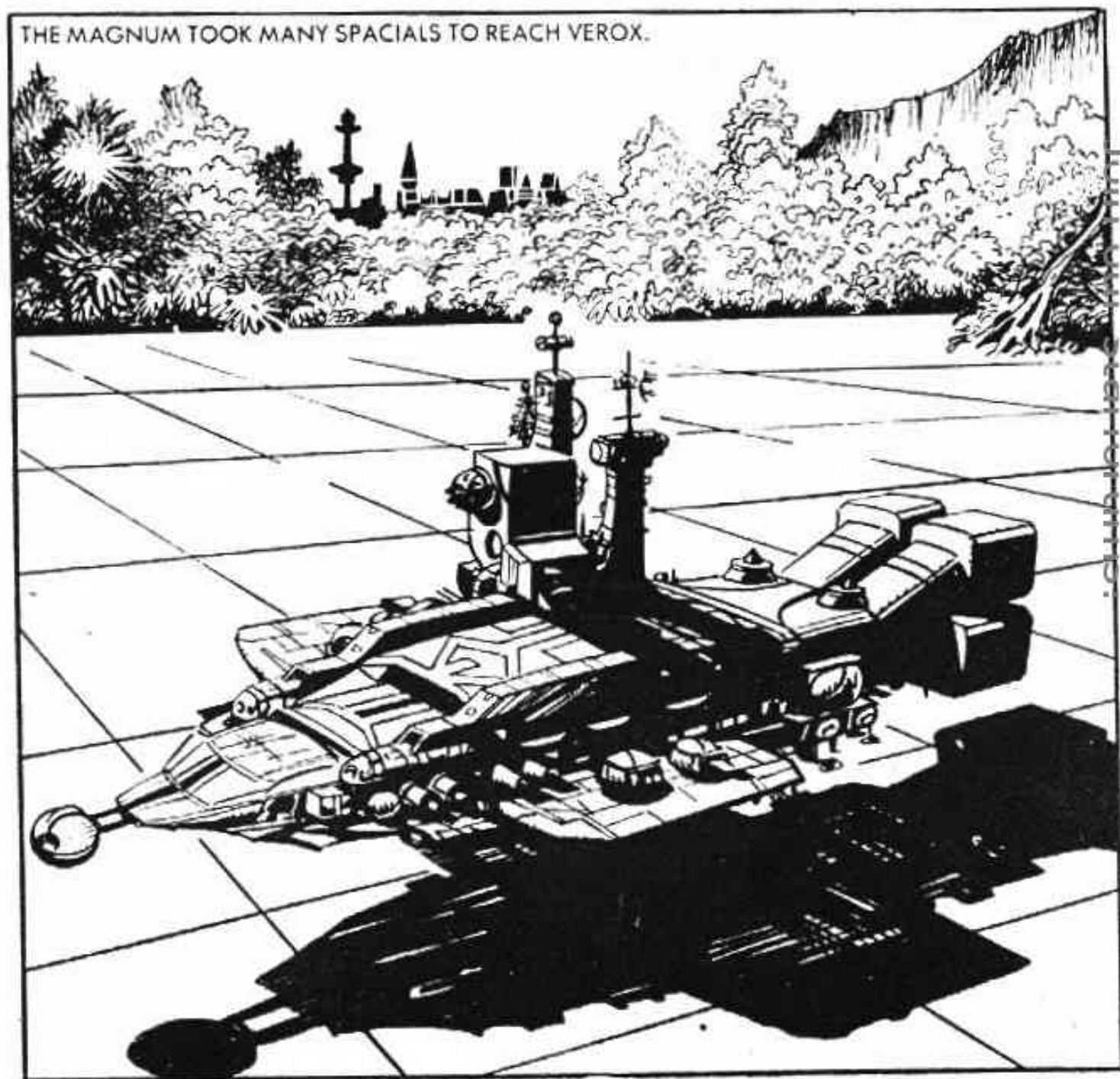
LET'S GET AS FAR AWAY FROM EARTH AS WE CAN.

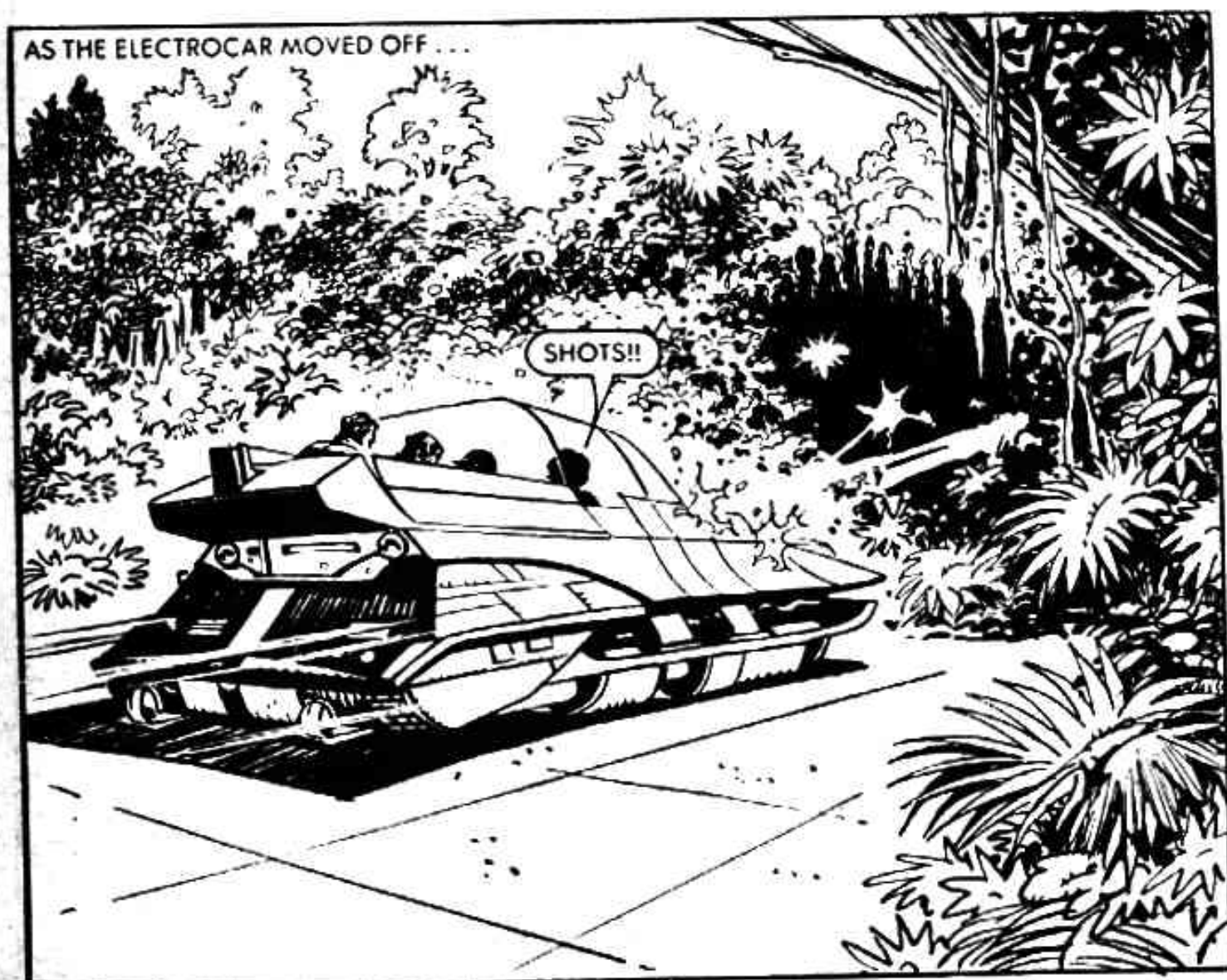
WE MUST DESTROY THAT CONTROL COMPUTER. HOW?

I AM NOT PROGRAMMED WITH THAT INFORMATION. HOWEVER, ENGINEER KAPUTH TREEN WAS... LAST KNOWN ABODE—PLANET VEROX.



THE MAGNUM TOOK MANY SPACIALS TO REACH VEROX.









POWER THREW DOWN HIS WEAPON —







POWER SOON FOUND TREEN—

I AM CONTROLLER TREEN.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

YOUR FATHER WAS THE ENGINEER
WHO BUILT CONTROL 1 ... DID HE
EVER SAY WHERE IT WAS?

NO! MY FATHER DIED BECAUSE OF
CONTROL 1 ... ALL HE EVER TOLD ME
WAS TO JOIN THE CONTROLLERS
BECAUSE I WOULD BE SAFE.



A VIDSCREEN CRACKLED INTO LIFE --



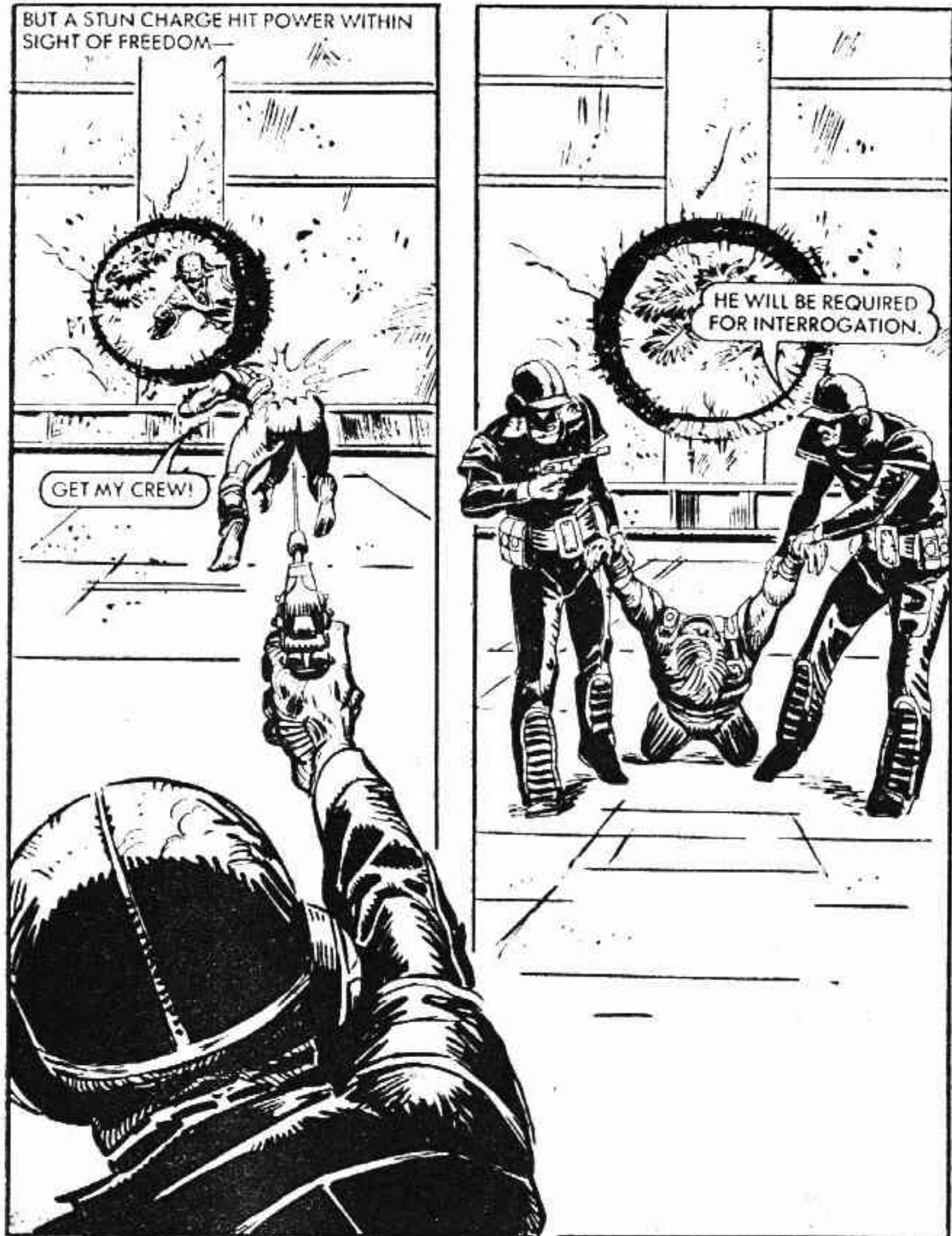




BUT A STUN CHARGE HIT POWER WITHIN
SIGHT OF FREEDOM—

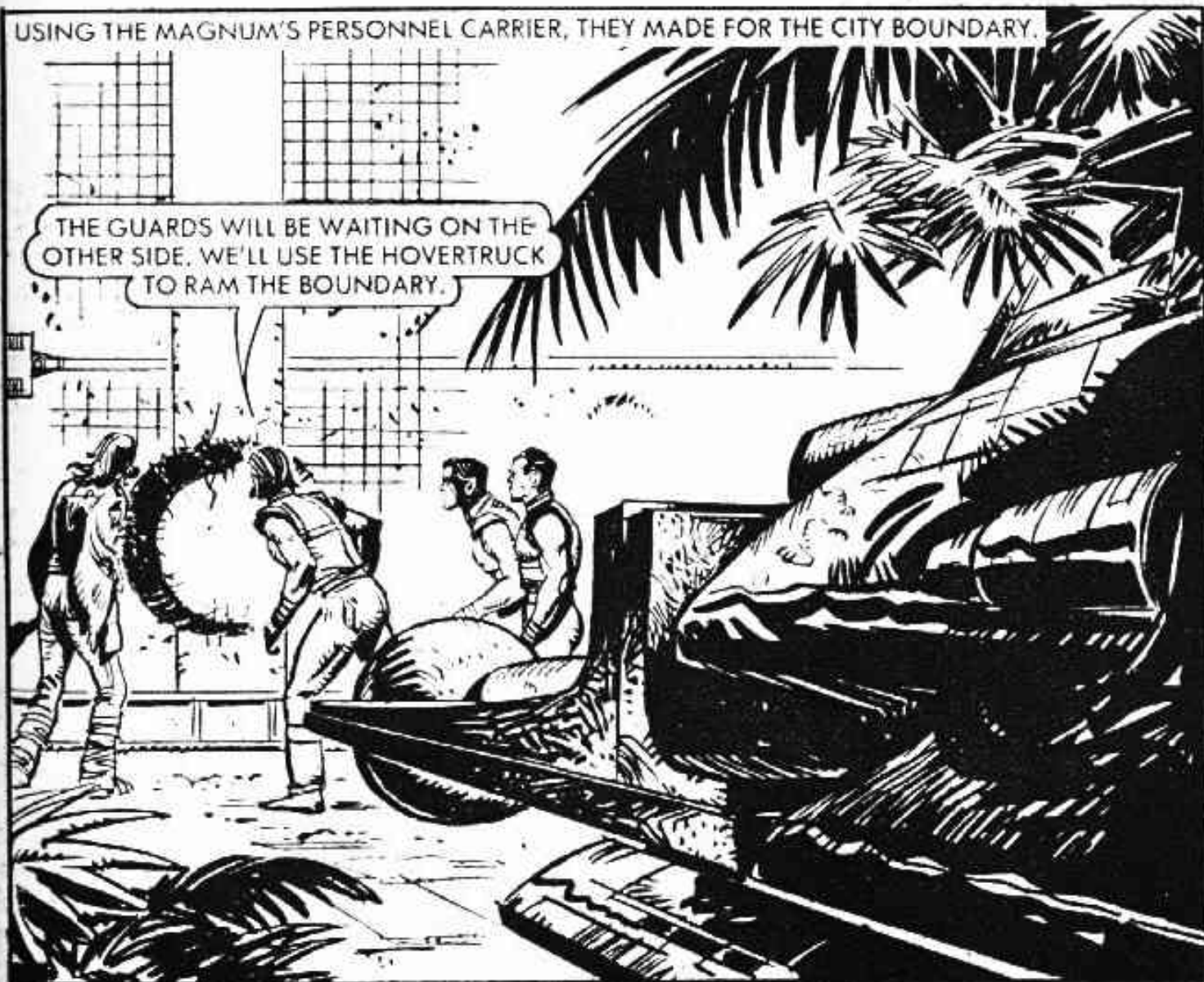
GET MY CREW!

HE WILL BE REQUIRED
FOR INTERROGATION.

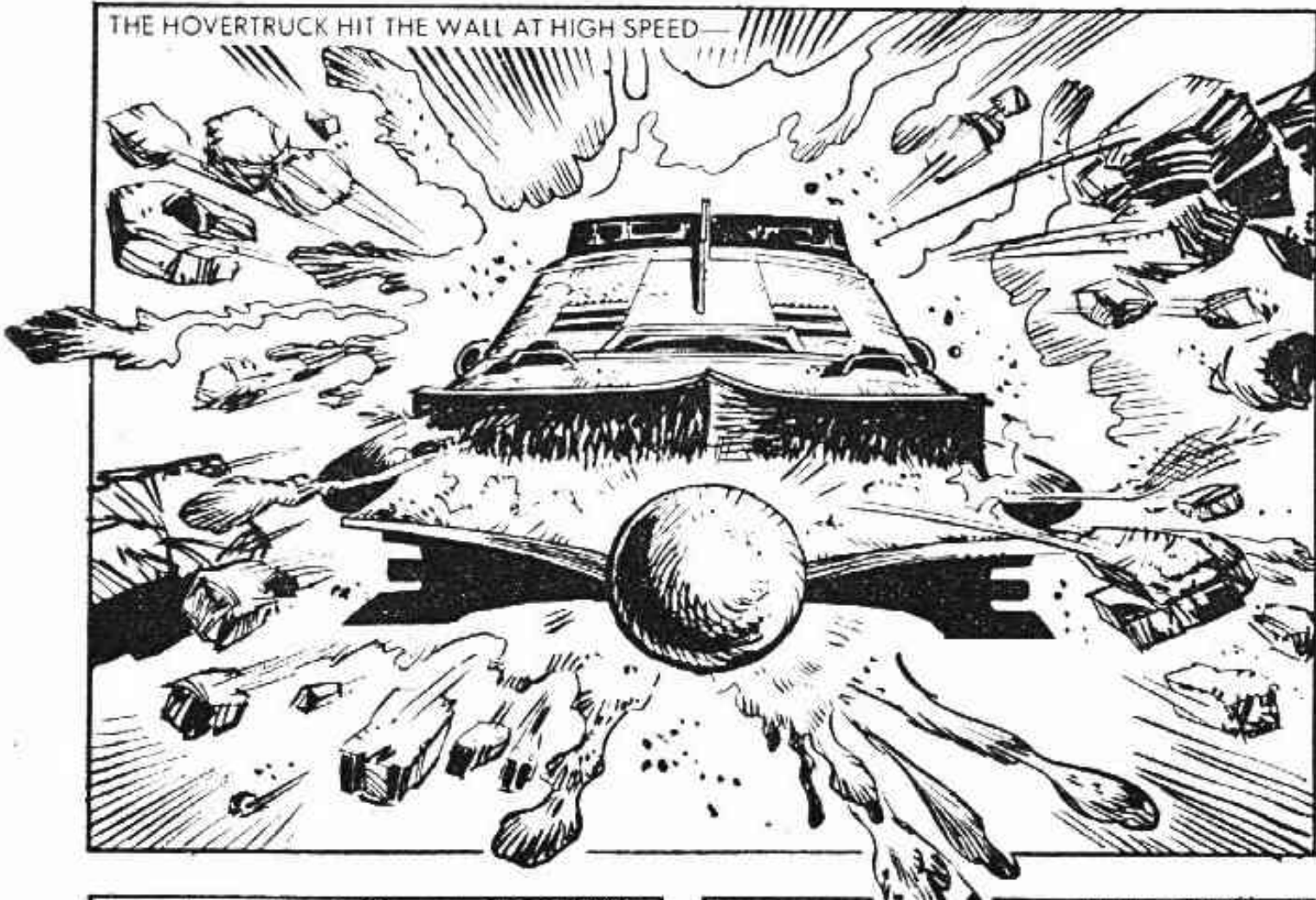




USING THE MAGNUM'S PERSONNEL CARRIER, THEY MADE FOR THE CITY BOUNDARY.



THE HOVERTRUCK HIT THE WALL AT HIGH SPEED—



WE'VE SCATTERED
THE GUARD.

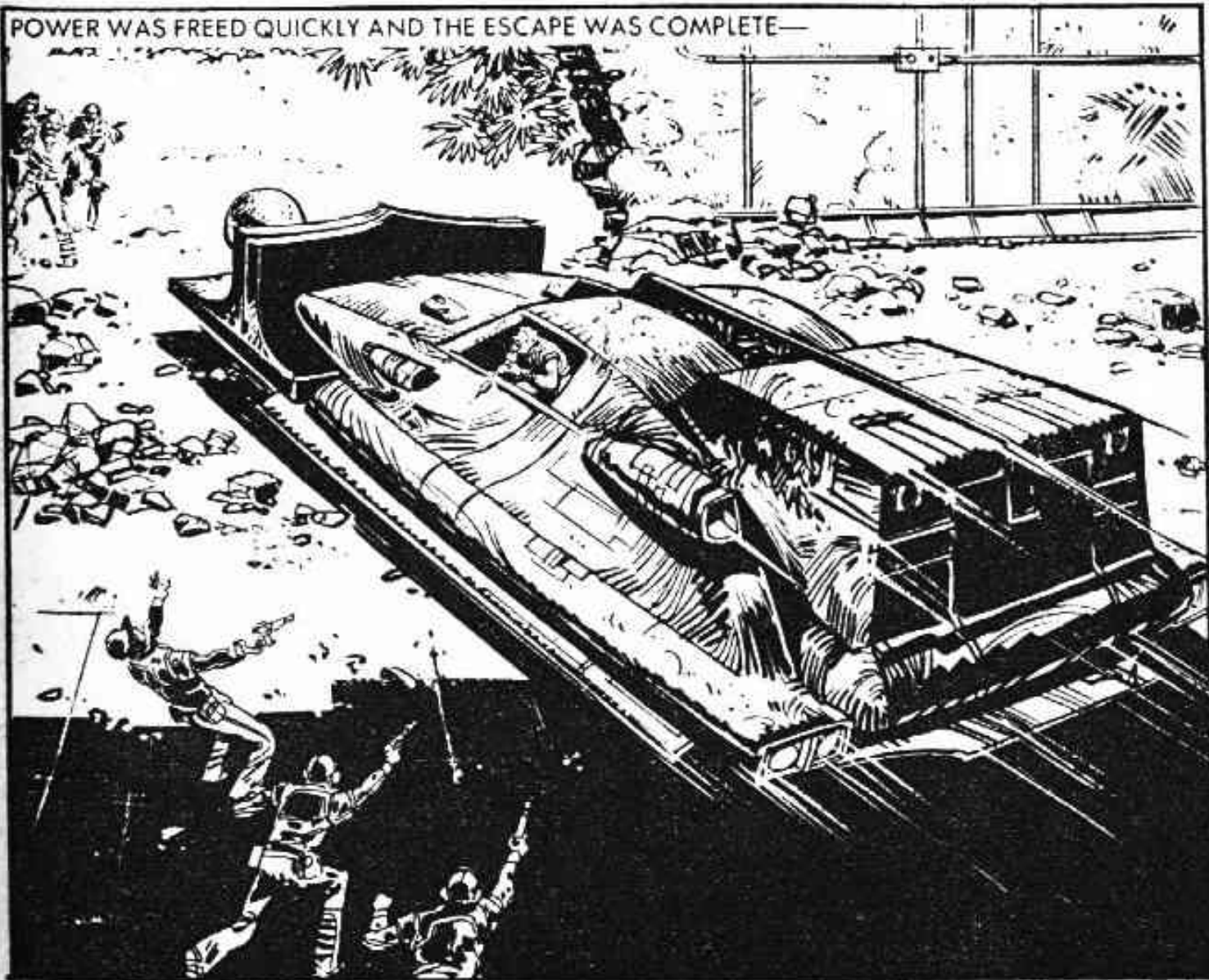
RENEGADES POURED INTO
THE CONTROLLER CENTRE.

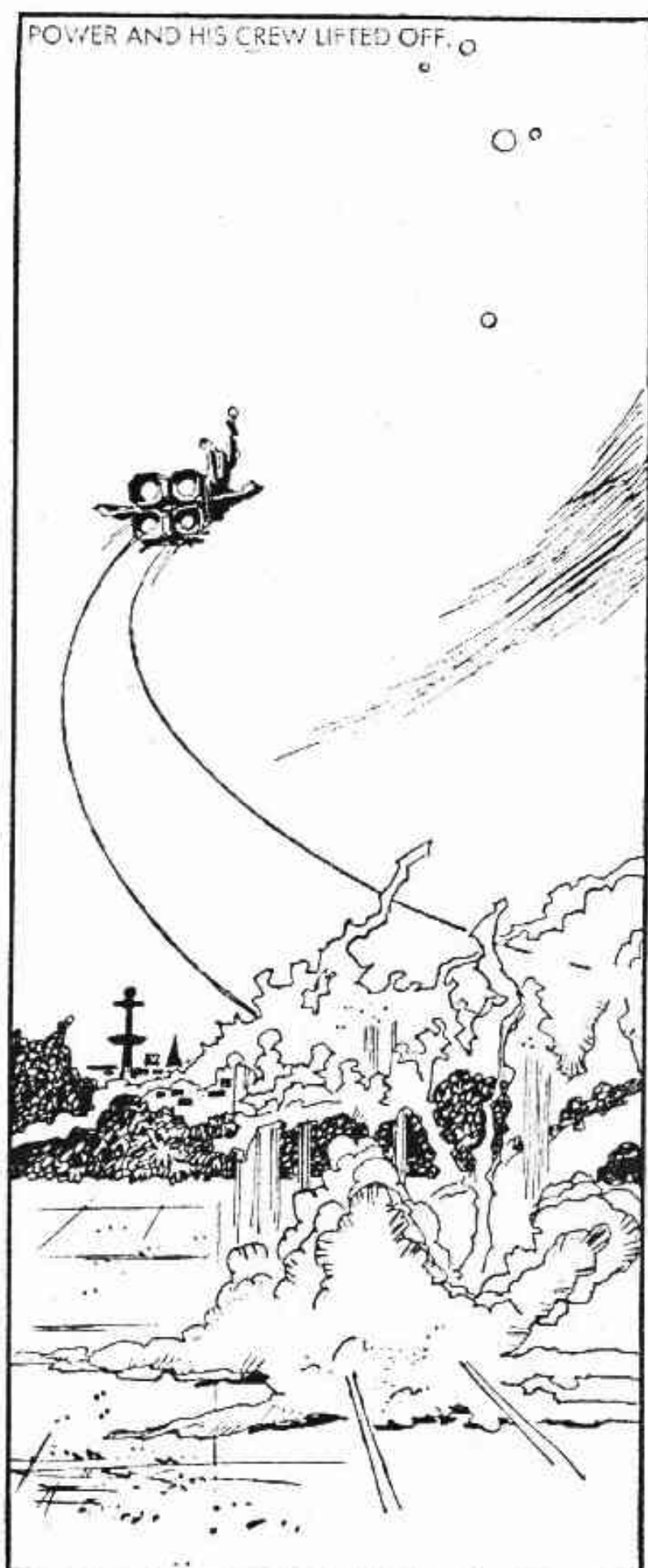


MELT THAT DOOR.



POWER WAS FREED QUICKLY AND THE ESCAPE WAS COMPLETE—





POWER PUZZLED OVER HIS TALK WITH TREEN'S SON.



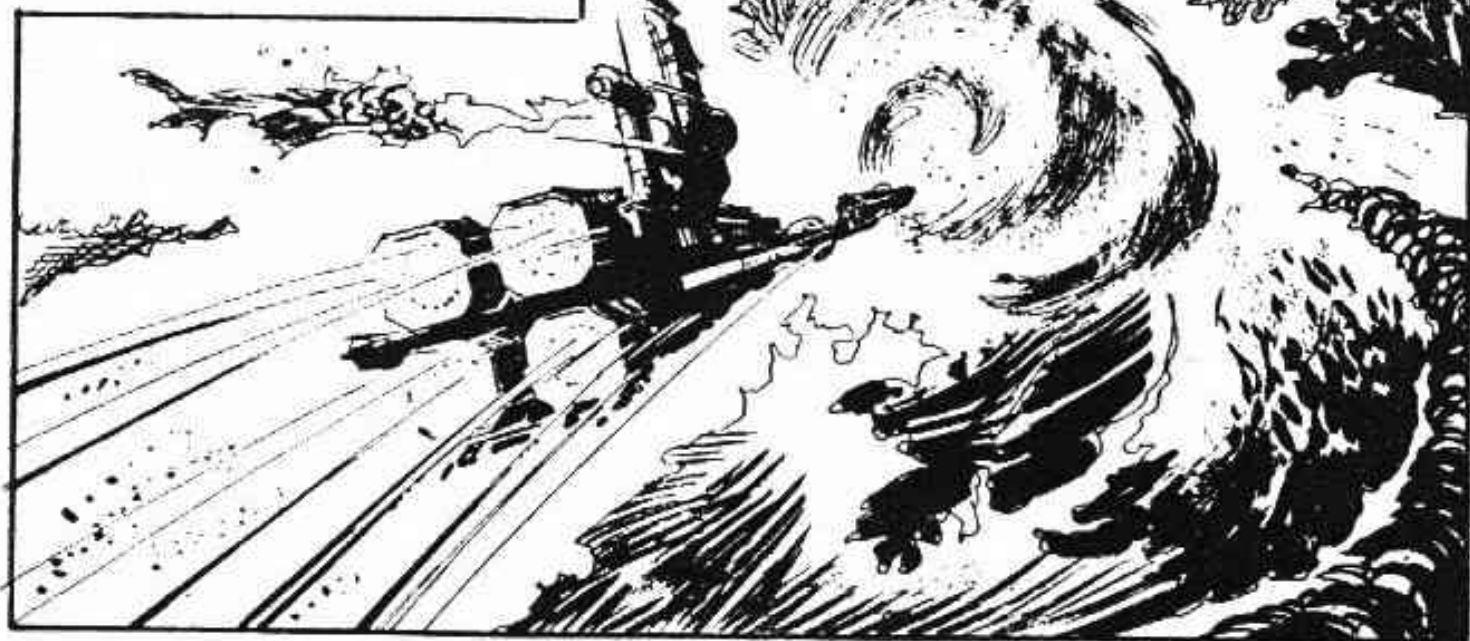
NOT REALLY... THE USUAL CRYPTIC MUMBOJUMBO— SOMETHING ABOUT DEVIL'S JAWS.



DEVIL'S JAWS... SECTOR 843.756—TWIN ELECTRICAL STORMS CAUSING AREA OF EXTREME TURBULENCE.

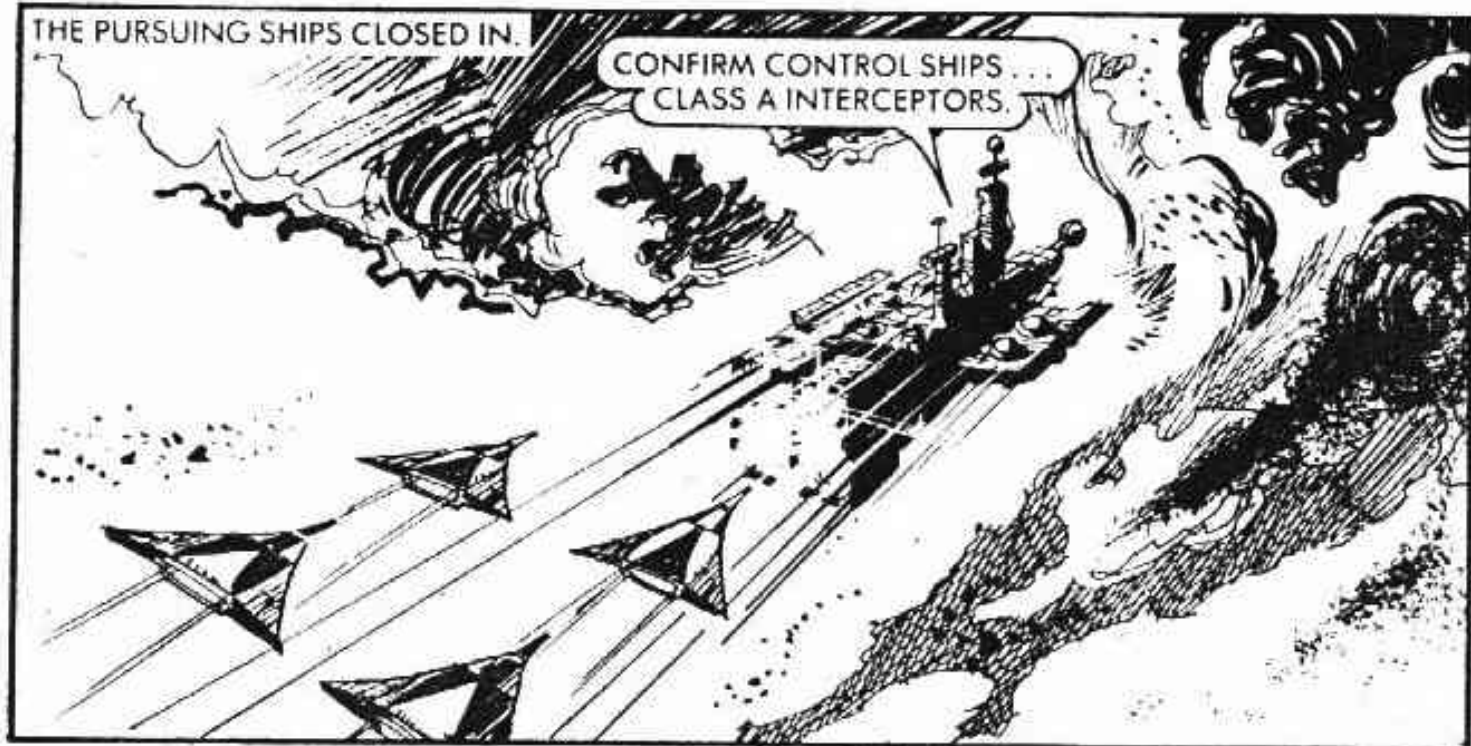


ALTHOUGH TRAVELLING AT JUST BELOW THE SPEED OF LIGHT, MAGNUM WASN'T FAST ENOUGH TO SHAKE OFF THE FOLLOWING CRAFT.

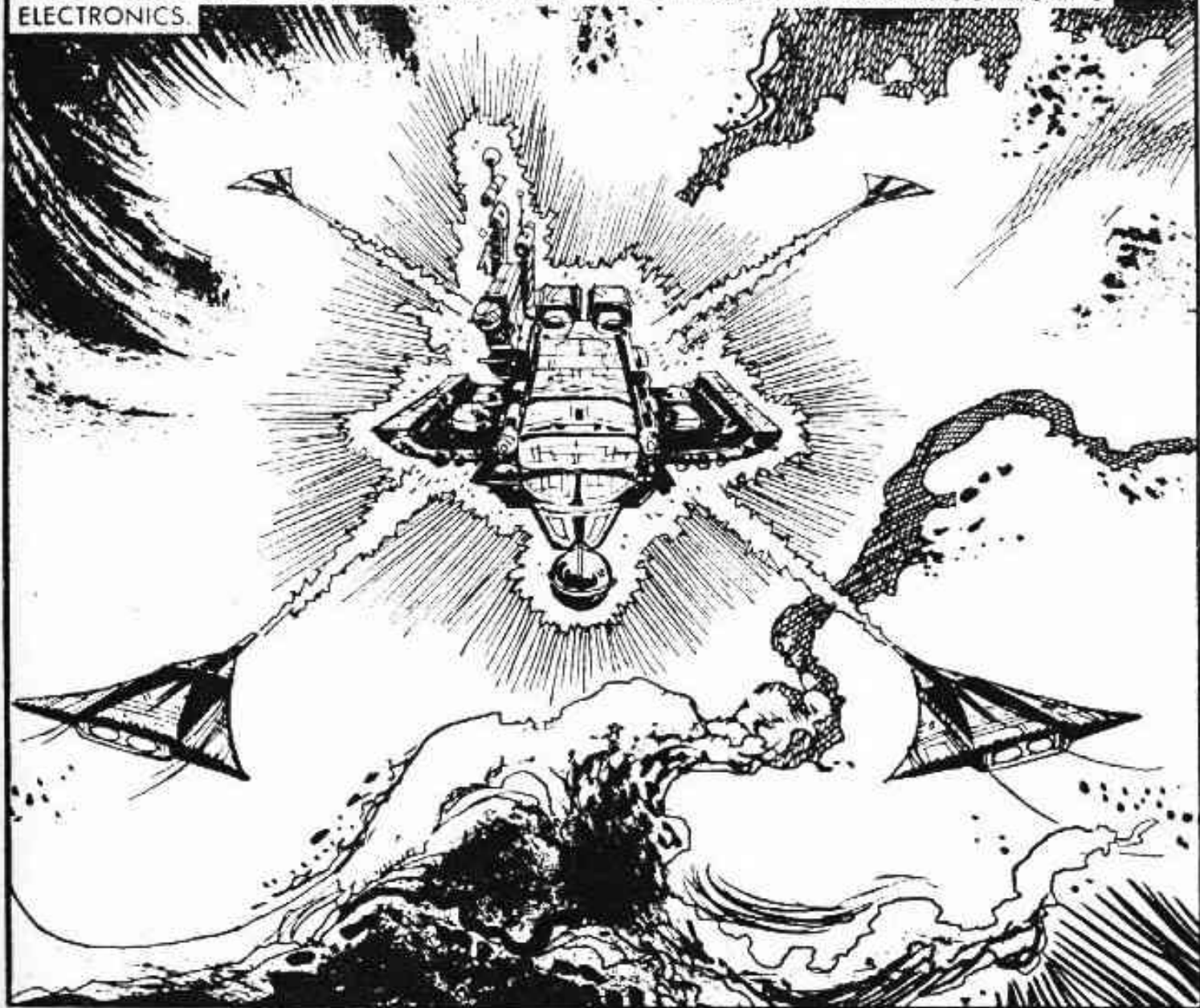


THE PURSUING SHIPS CLOSED IN.

CONFIRM CONTROL SHIPS ...
CLASS A INTERCEPTORS.

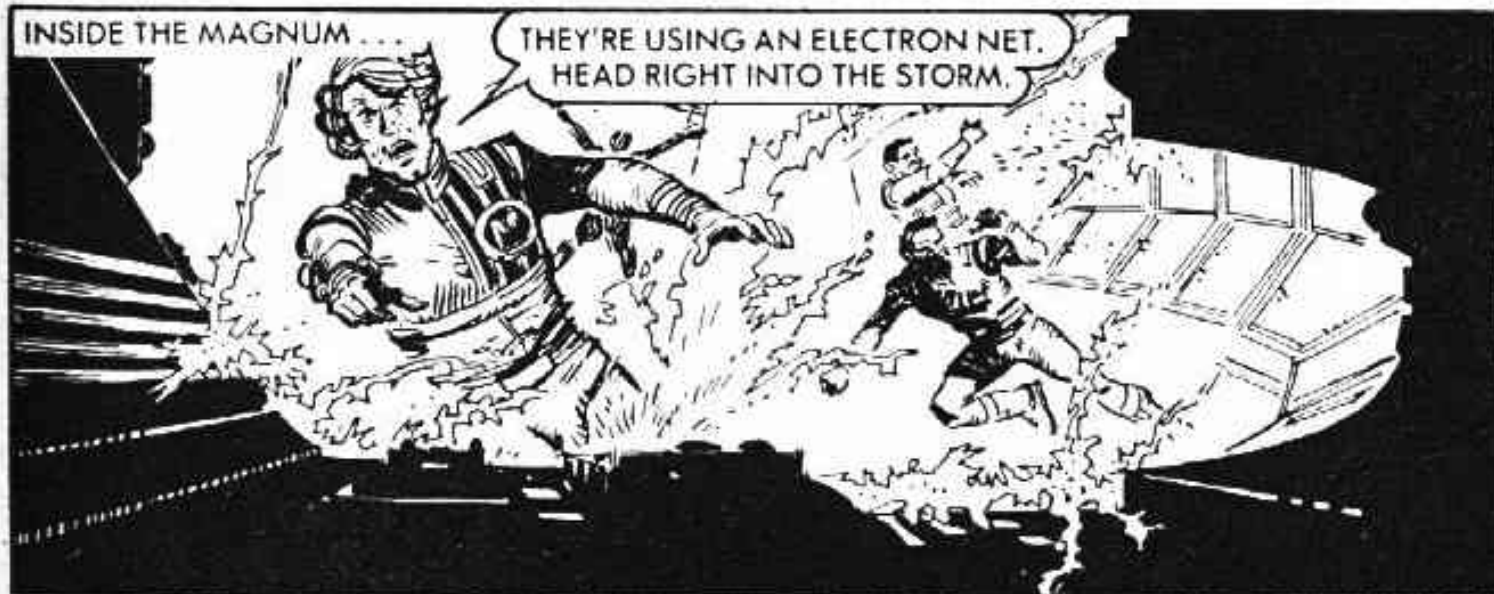


THE SHIPS CONSTRUCTED AN ELECTRON WEB—A TECHNIQUE THAT BURNED OUT A SHIP'S ELECTRONICS.

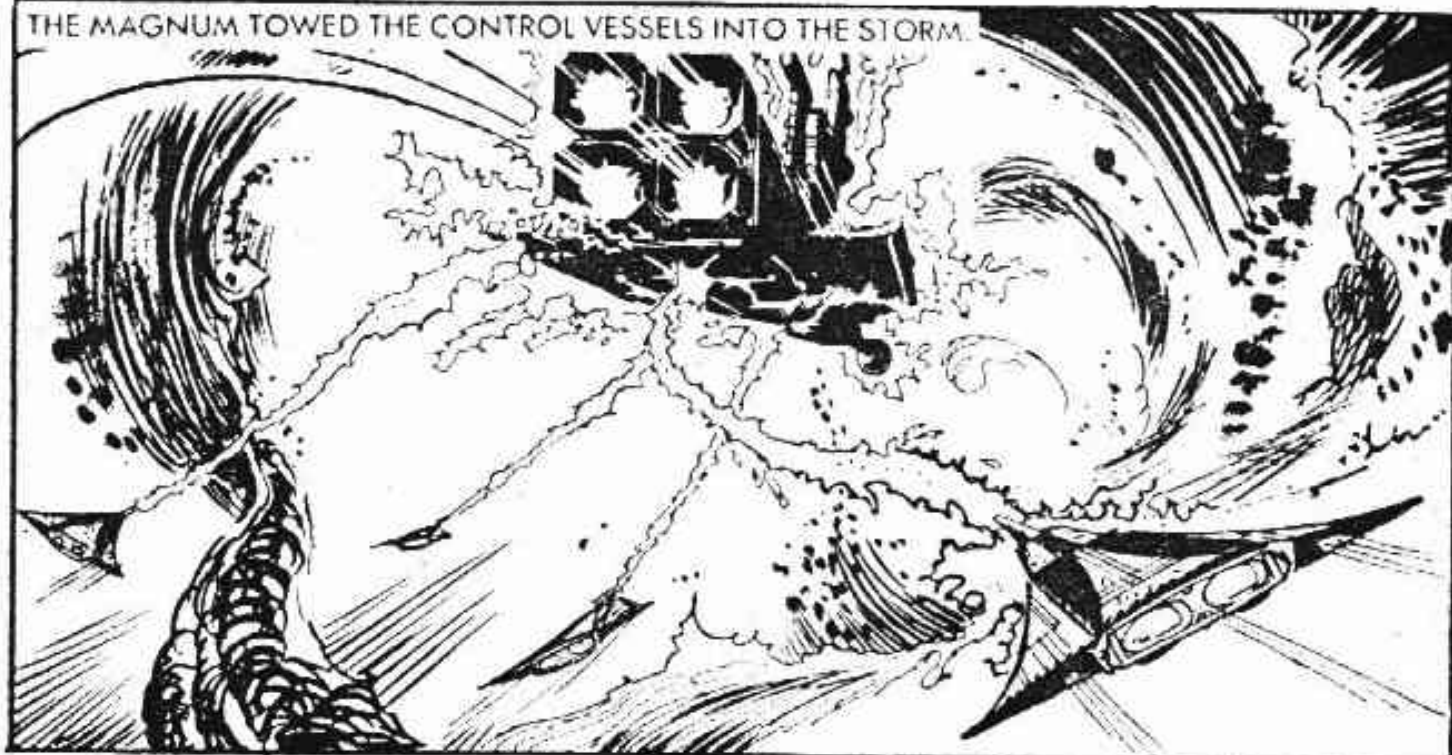


INSIDE THE MAGNUM...

THEY'RE USING AN ELECTRON NET.
HEAD RIGHT INTO THE STORM.



THE MAGNUM TOWED THE CONTROL VESSELS INTO THE STORM.



THE LESS STURDY FIGHTERS DISINTEGRATED IN THE ELECTRICAL STORM.



THE MAGNUM SURVIVED THE STORM, BUT WAS BADLY BATTERED.



THE ELECTRON NET SAVED US BUT WE'RE BADLY DAMAGED. WE'LL HAVE TO PUT DOWN FOR REPAIR.

THERE'S A SUITABLE PLANET SEVEN PARSECS AWAY.



AS THEY CAME INTO ORBIT.

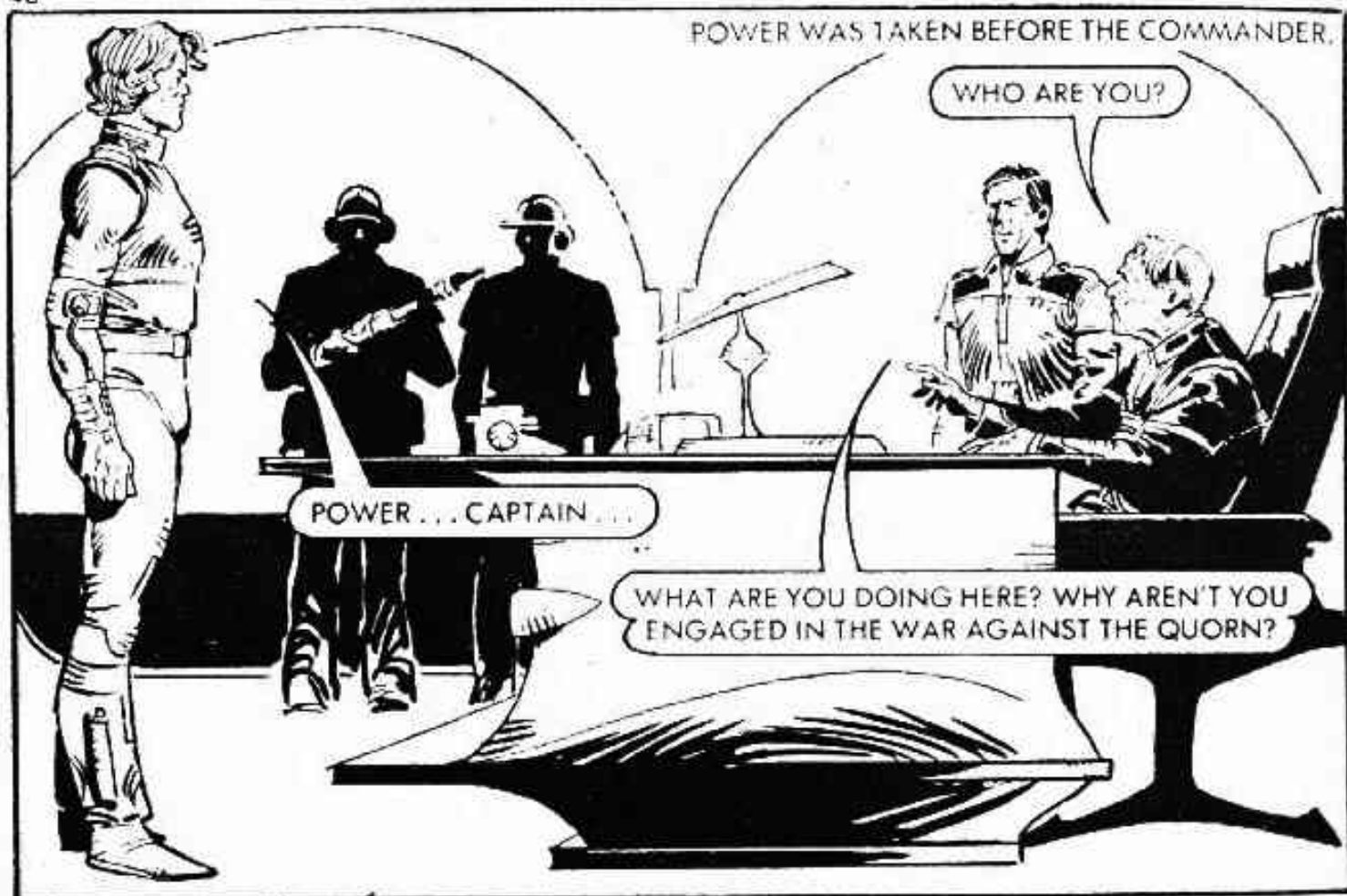
ANOTHER ATTACK!



THE BADLY DAMAGED MAGNUM COULDN'T COPE,
AND CRASHED TO THE BARREN SURFACE.







IN HIS CELL POWER RECEIVED A VISITOR.

I'M MONX. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE YOU . . . WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH ANYONE BUT CONTROL FOR MANY YEARS.

MONX RELEASED POWER.

WHERE IS CONTROL 1?

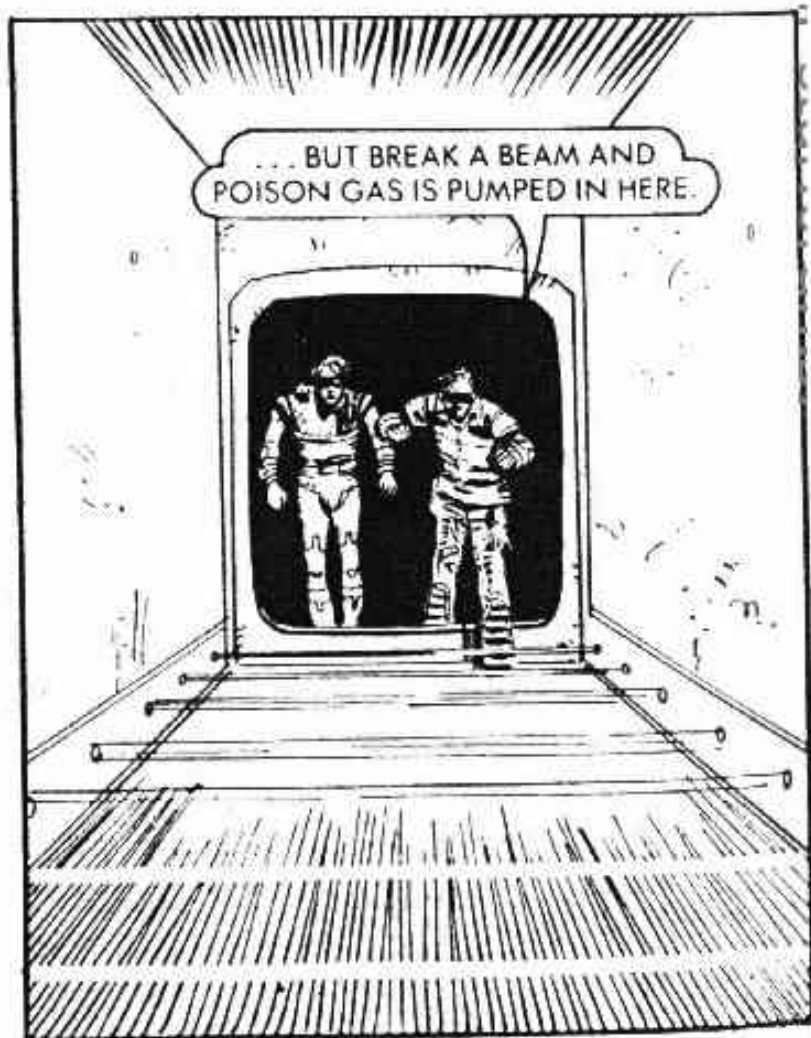
HERE! WHEN EARTH WAS UNDER THREAT, IT WAS DECIDED TO BUILD A COMPUTER TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE IN THE EVENT OF EARTH'S DEFEAT.











CAREFULLY THEY PICKED THEIR WAY OVER THE BEAMS —



I CAN'T GO ON! MY LEG'S HAD IT!

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?



MONX DESCRIBED THE PROCEDURE.

... THIS CARD WILL GAIN YOU
ENTRY TO THE INNER SANCTUARY,
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO HALT CONTROL
1 YOURSELF.

POWER SOON FOUND CONTROL 1 IN ITS PROTECTED AREA.

SO YOU ARE THE MIGHTY CONTROL 1.







POWER TOOK THE ONLY COURSE OF ACTION HE COULD —

HERE I AM... KILL ME NOW!

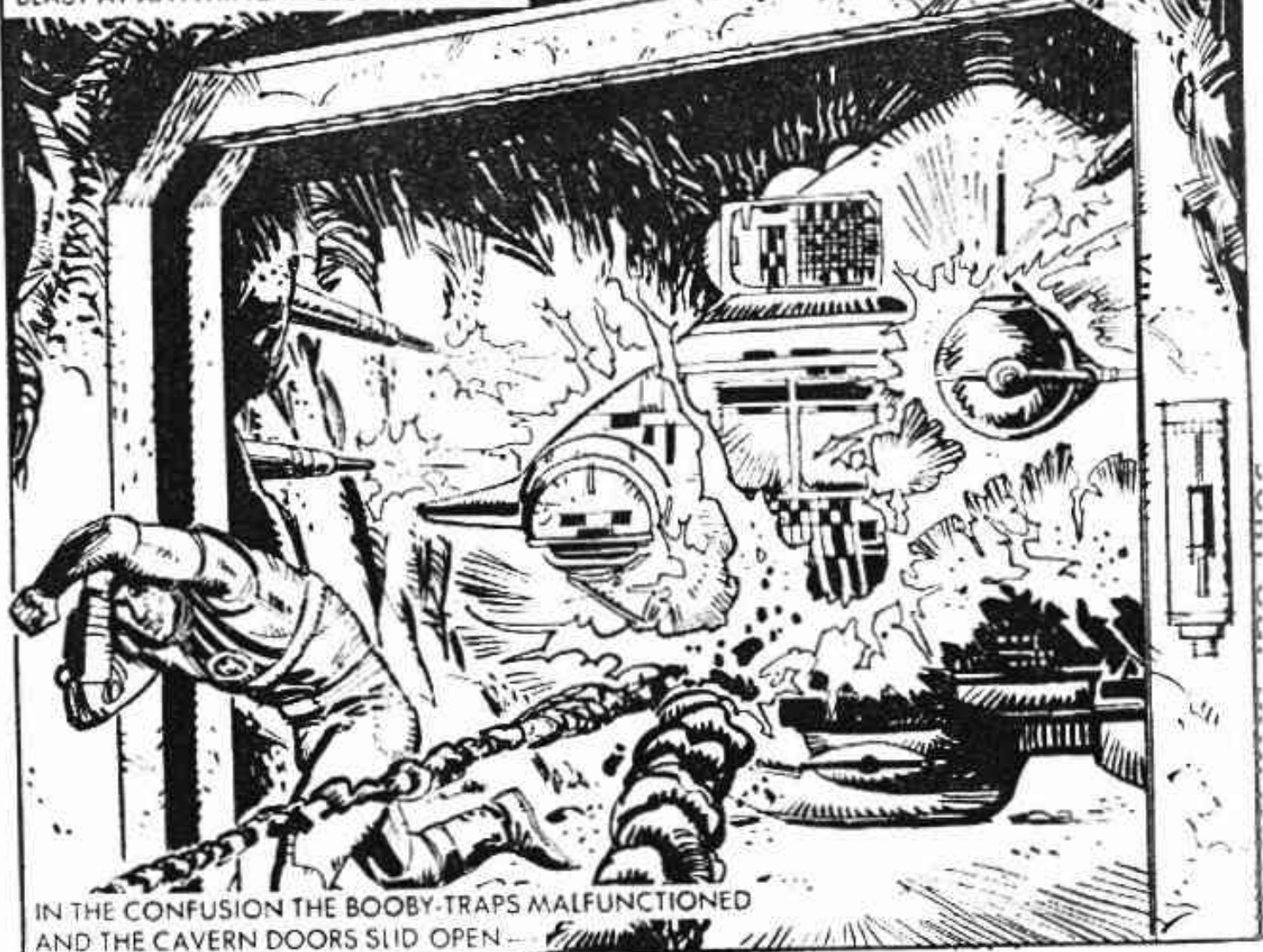


—HE THREW HIMSELF ONTO THE COMPUTER, WHICH IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO FIRE AT HIM... AND ITSELF.

YOU ARE A THREAT TO ME. YOU MUST DIE! FIRE! MALFUNCTION... REPAIR INSTANTLY.



CONTROL 1'S SELF INFLICTED DAMAGE CAUSED CIRCUITS TO FUSE — IT CONTINUED TO BLAST AT ANYTHING INCLUDING ITSELF.



IN THE CONFUSION THE BOOBY-TRAPS MALFUNCTIONED AND THE CAVERN DOORS SLID OPEN —

WITH THE AID OF MONY, POWER FOUND HIS WAY BACK TO HIS MEN —



WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST — THE COMPUTER WILL DESTROY THE ENTIRE COMPLEX.







THE SPACE HOPPERS WERE HASTILY FIXED TO THE MAGNUM.

CONTROL 1 IS GOING CRITICAL ...
THE ENTIRE SYSTEM IS OVERLOADED.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT —
IT'LL BLOW SOON.

POWER ACTIVATED THE MOTORS ON THE HOPPERS —

WE'RE OFF!



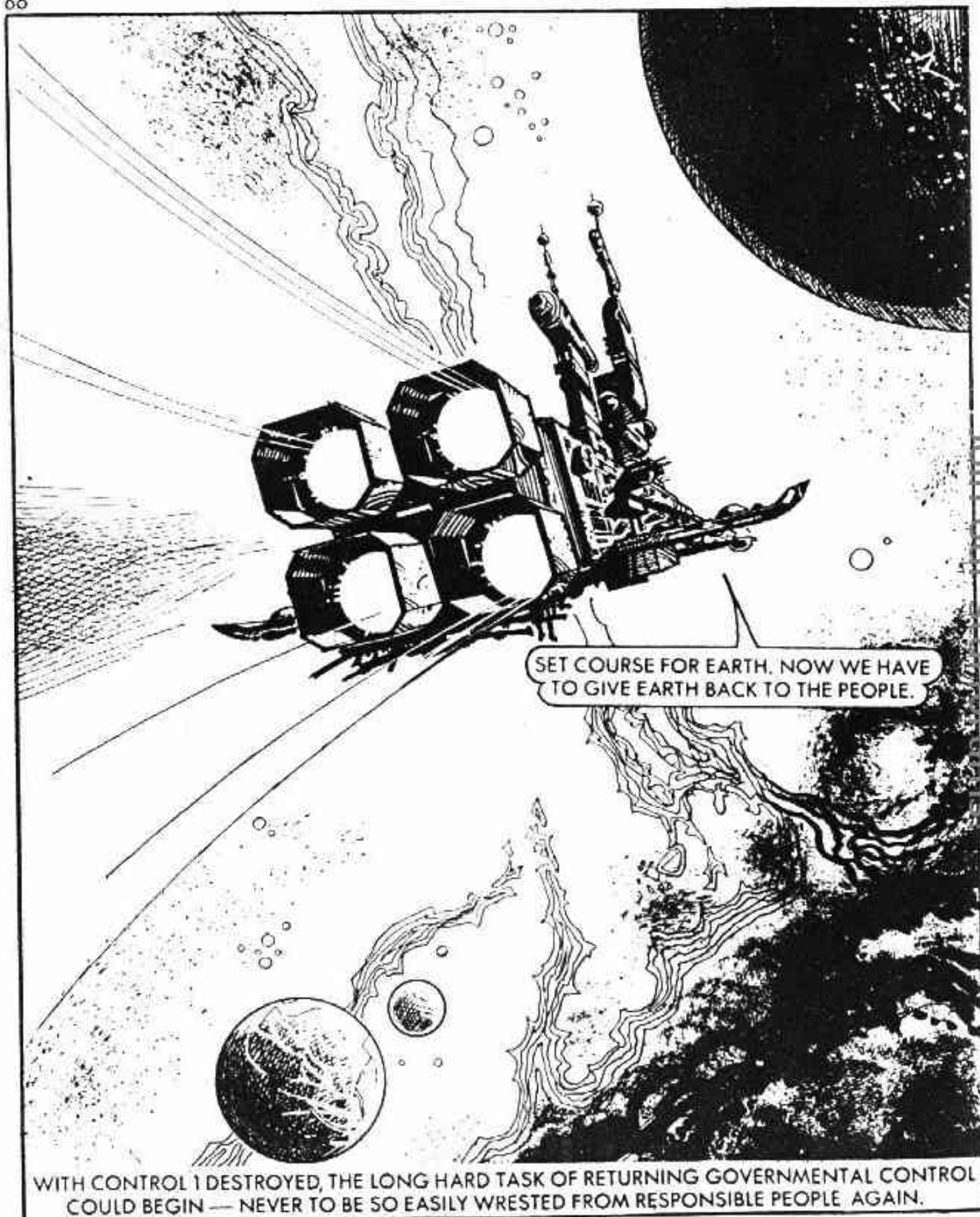
MAGNUM SHUDDERED ITS WAY INTO SPACE.



IN THE MAGNUM.

AND THERE GOES
CONTROL 1.





SET COURSE FOR EARTH. NOW WE HAVE
TO GIVE EARTH BACK TO THE PEOPLE.

WITH CONTROL 1 DESTROYED, THE LONG HARD TASK OF RETURNING GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL
COULD BEGIN — NEVER TO BE SO EASILY WRESTED FROM RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE AGAIN.

Printed and Published in Great Britain by D. C. THOMSON & CO., LTD.,
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**DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**



NOW ON SALE

STARBLAZER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY SAGITTARIUS

A constellation belonging to the Zodiac, Sagittarius is in the Southern Hemisphere, and lies partly in the Milky Way. This constellation is almost at the centre of the Galaxy.

